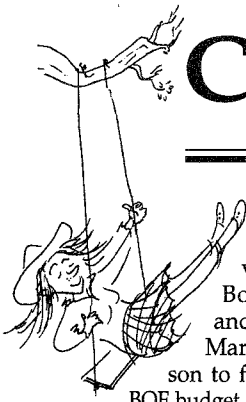


CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 6 : NUMBER 3 APRIL 1996



Education Dollars

If continuity is a civic virtue, members of the Boards of Finance (BOF) and Education (BOE) at the March BOF meeting had reason to feel virtuous. The 1996-97

BOE budget is a mere 1.8 percent higher, at \$1,947,406, than the previous year. If \$8,000 marked for roof repair is subtracted, the year-to-year difference shrinks to a mere 1.4 percent.

Cornwall's share of the high school budget appears to have dwindled (roughly \$63,000) depending on final budget numbers. But the tuition figure is still at 26 percent of the total BOE blueprint.

One BOE budget detail looked farther into the future: expenditures on computers, and their maintenance. Hardware purchases were up 153 percent, and maintenance costs rose 66 percent, although dollar amounts were only 0.3 percent of the whole budget. According to Principal Bill Oros, these increases will support development of a five-year "computer-tech plan" that Oros feels is urgently needed. "We can't make do any more," he said. "We have to move ahead."

BOF Chair Ralph Gold indicated that the BOE's budget was acceptable, and that it needed only "fine tuning" in preparation for the town budget hearing on April 26.

—Charles Osborne

Cornwall Sirup

As predictable as the reluctant arrival of spring in Cornwall is the appearance in late February of sap buckets or the blue and green tubeline harnesses and halters on maple trees—all at work to please the palates of Cornwall lovers of maple sirup (as the old-timers spell it). As unpredictable as the weather itself is sap quantity and sweetness. Sweetness is a tree-by-tree hereditary thing, but it also depends on the moisture and nutrients of the preceding summer. Quantity depends on cold freezing nights followed by warm days. Sap, cold and clear, is the goal.

In Cornwall, where the normal season is from February 23 to March 31, the flow has been moderate and the sugar content high. Irv Robbins was the first out with brace and bit to tap the trees. Other tappers include the Harts, Heddens, Ridgways, Potters, Scovilles, Lorches, Whitfords, Mauro, Williams, and West. Healthy trees produce excess sap; tapping does not harm them. However, too many taps in the same trunk area will cause scar tissue and eventual limb loss.

Normally, 40 quarts of sap make one quart of sirup. If the sap is extra sweet, the ratio is lower. Sugar content rises during the season, then drops. Airborne bacteria on equipment may impart color and flavor from

batch to batch. Too many bacteria make sirup black and unpalatable.

Many people help with the collection of sap and the stoking of fires. The red-eyed, smoky, hard-physical-work reality of the whole enterprise is nicely balanced by the certainty of impending spring, the joy of the harvest, and the feeling that you are in an antique photograph with mud, snow, smoke, and water—and maybe with the same clothes you wore last year for the event.

—Philip W. Hart

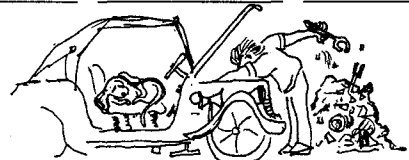
To Mine or Not to Mine

After a fairly quiet winter, the Planning and Zoning Commission worked through a long agenda at its March meeting. Foremost is the issue of gravel mining. Members set for hearing on April 8 the application by FSB Associates to excavate gravel and restore their site off Route 7. Peter Stiglin, a neighbor, presented for the record a packet of 45 documents opposing gravel mining. Two submissions from James Taylor, through Attorney Leonard Blum, requested 1) permission to excavate gravel from the Taylor land; and 2) that the commission delete from the regulations the article allowing gravel mining by special permit. These requests were set for hearing in May. When asked about the submissions' apparently opposite goals, Attor-

(continued on page 2)

APRIL 1996

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<i>Note: Deadline for May Events & Announcements and Calendar listings is April 15.</i>	1 April Art Show Nat'l Iron Bank Cornwall Bridge, Marjorie Fales Bd. of Selectmen 8 P.M. Town Hall	2 Kindergarten Regis. (p.4) Dem. Caucus 7:30 P.M. CCS Library (p.2) Agric. Adv. Comm. 7:30 P.M. W.C. Firehouse Park & Rec 7:30 P.M. Town Office Inland Wetlands 8 P.M. Town Hall	3 Kindergarten Registration (p.4) W. Cornwall Merchants Assoc. 10 A.M. Cadwell's Cub Scout Parents Meeting 6:30 P.M. UCC Day Room	4 PASSOVER	5 GOOD FRIDAY	6 Easter Egg Hunt 11:00 A.M. CCS (p.3)
7 EASTER Daylight Saving Time Begins	8 P&Z 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	9 Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library Rep. Town Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Conference Room	10 CCS PTA 7 P.M. CCS Library	11 Cornwall Housing Corp. 4:30 P.M. Kugeman Village	12 Judy Gafney Preschooler Story Hour 10 A.M. Library	13 La Casa Dinner & Concert 5:30 P.M. UCC Parish House (p.4)
14	15 Art Show 4/15-5/11 Library Cynthia Kirk & Skip Hunt HVRHS Board of Ed. 7 P.M. HVRHS Bd. of Selectmen 8 P.M. Town Hall	16	17	18 Bd. of Education 5 P.M. CCS Library Bd. of Finance 7:30 P.M. CCS Library	19 Judy Gafney Preschooler Story Hour 10 A.M. Library Spaghetti Supper 6-8 P.M. Mohawk Lodge (p.3) Travelogue: English Gardens 7:30 P.M. CCS Library (p.3)	20 FISHING SEASON OPENS Youth Group Bake Sale 8-11 A.M. Baird's Store (p.4) Tillie and Friends 8 P.M. Cornubia Hall (p.4)
21 Cornwall Association 4 P.M. Town Hall	22 EARTH DAY Gymnastics Begins Goshen Center School (p.3) ZBA 8 P.M. Town Office*	23 Elderly Health Screening CCS (p.4)	24 TV Turn-Off Week Begins (p.3)	25	26 Judy Gafney Preschooler Story Hour 10 A.M. Library Public Hearing on Budget 7:30 P.M. CCS Gym	27 Windows into Waldorf 9 A.M.-Noon Sharon (p.3)
28 Child Center Auction 1:30 P.M. Silent, 3 P.M. Live Mohawk Ski Lodge (p.4) Benefit Concert Anne Chamberlain & Kari Miller 5 P.M. UCC (p.4)	29 Gymnastics Goshen Center School	30				



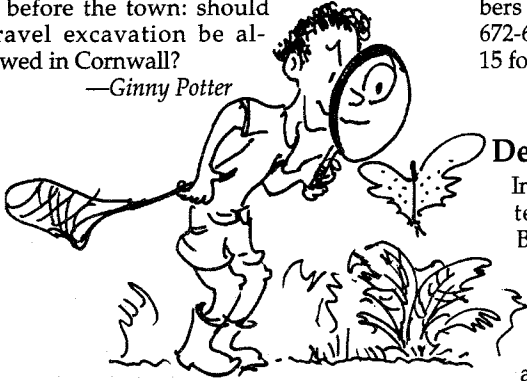
*Check time and place at Town Office

(continued from page 1)

ney Blum said that Taylor, as an environmentalist, felt that the mining application "presented an opportunity for the commission to deny both requests—his own and FSB Associates'—and establish a precedent for ending excavation in the Industrial-Residential Zone."

In the past, there were many unregulated "back yard" gravel pits in Cornwall. In 1984 an expanded gravel regulation allowed excavation on a controlled scale. Now the subject is before the town: should gravel excavation be allowed in Cornwall?

—Ginny Potter



Town to Buy? Sell?

At its March 18 meeting the Board of Selectmen recommended that the town, at a meeting scheduled for March 30, approve the sale of the Rumsey property for \$150,000 to Andrew Hingson of Westport, CT. Hingson plans to convert Rumsey into a residence. The selectmen also recommended the purchase, for future town use, of a half-acre of land next to the Town Office from Marcia Shaw for \$13,000.

The selectmen reiterated their conviction that the town needs to resolve the Rumsey issue once and for all. Razing the building would cost the town \$100,000. The sale would bring in \$150,000, with assurance that Rumsey would be restored without losing its historic character.

—Ken Keskinen

How Much For Snow Removal?

Snow, snow, and more snow. Nearly nine feet of the stuff. Most of us know how much time we spent shoveling the roof and plowing the driveway, but what about the town? How is it doing financially in this stormy year?

The budget called for \$35,000 to be spent on snow removal, including sand, salt, contractors, plowing, and food bills at Baird's and Berkshire Country Store for the crew. So far the town has spent a bit more than \$32,000. But the budgeted overtime for each man is 140 hours, and so far this year the whole crew has logged 395 hours of extra overtime, costing almost \$8,400. The Board of Finance has authorized a transfer of \$5,000 into the snow removal account. That snow is expensive stuff!

—John Zinsser

GOP for Dole, Geraniums

Like other towns in the Northwest Corner, more than half of Cornwall's Republicans voted for Dole in the March 5 primary. Of 120 votes cast, Dole got 65, fol-



lowed by Forbes with 32, Alexander with 9, Buchanan with 7, and Lugar with 3. Four voted "uncommitted."

Closer to home, the Republican Town Committee voted Don Bardot in as chair, Lisa Cruse as vice-chair, Sue Simons as secretary, and David Harmon as treasurer.

The committee announced its annual geranium sale, with proceeds funding the Washington intern program. Orders for the red, white, or pink geraniums can be placed (before May 1) with members of the committee or with Lisa Cruse at 672-6049. Individual plants are \$3, or a flat of 15 for \$40. A May 15 delivery is promised.

—Ken Keskinen

Dems Tap Officers, Plan Caucus

In March, the Democratic Town Committee re-elected Steve Senzer as chair, Bobby Klaw as vice-chair, Charlie Osborne as secretary, and Philla Osborne as treasurer.

A caucus will be held at 7:30 p.m., April 2, at the CCS library, to appoint a delegate to the State Convention. At that same meeting Charlotte Koskoff, who is again seeking the Democratic nomination for the House from the 6th District, will speak. Encouraged by the results of her '94 attempt, Koskoff feels that Nancy Johnson can be successfully challenged. All Democrats are invited to vote at the caucus; others are invited to hear Charlotte Koskoff.

—Steve Senzer

Local Red Cross Sets Courses

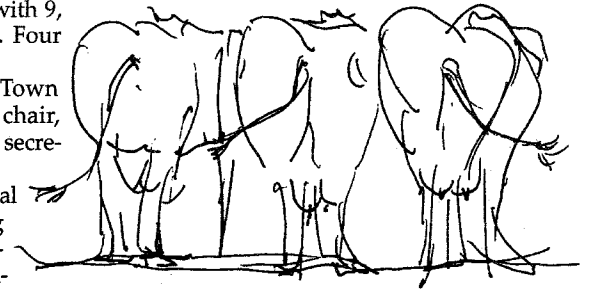
Mud and crocuses aren't the only things Cornwall residents can anticipate when the snows melt. Spring also brings the annual request for support from the Cornwall branch of the American Red Cross. However, in addition to asking for contributions, the Cornwall ARC is offering safety training programs for area residents.

First Aid and Safety was recently given at the UCC Congregational by Jack Forster. The nine-hour program taught participants how to identify and deal with some of the more common medical emergencies. One of the highlights was a segment which led to certification in the three types of CPR. Jack plans to offer this program again.

Also offered is a program that prepares people for the responsibilities of baby-sitting, including coping with emergencies common among children.

Residents who want more information about the programs are asked to call Sue Simons at 672-0111 or Jack Forster at 672-0141.

—Sue Simons



Kayaking Club for Junior Paddlers

A junior division of the Housatonic Area Club and Kayak Squad (HACKS) has been recently formed to increase paddling opportunities for young people. Based in Cornwall, the Junior HACKS program is coordinated by Cornwall residents Steve and Jandi Butler. Right now there are eight kids involved in the program, ages 10-15 years old, and they're very excited about learning the fundamentals of canoeing and kayaking.

Over the winter the Junior HACKS offered kayak training at the indoor pool at Connecticut Junior Republic in Litchfield. The group is planning a series of fund raisers this spring. "We need to raise money for the program so that we can buy equipment and boats," said Jason Lynn, eighth grader and Junior HACKS member. For more information about the program, call Steve Butler at 672-6079.

—Steve Butler

Welcome

Anna Elisabeth Geyselaers to
Brigitte and Michael Geyselaers

Zachary Thomas Busby to
Bente and Peter Busby

Good-bye to Friends

Mae N. Eden

Elsie Hartman

Edwin A. Palmer

Land Transfers

Remo Fabbri, Jr. to Multi I/Unionreo, Inc.,
25 acres off Clark Road for \$40,000.

Harvey and Cynthia Offenhartz to Bianca
Fiore-LaPorta, 6.0 acres on Great Hollow
Road for \$68,000.

Pluck Ni-Cads From Trash

By May 1, the Transfer Station will be recycling Nickel-Cadmium batteries (Ni-Cads) in accordance with state law. Ni-Cads are clearly labeled and are used in cordless household tools and appliances. A rechargeable Ni-Cad replaces about 150 non-recyclable alkaline batteries. However, cadmium is toxic; it is now illegal to put such batteries in landfills or incinerators. So, bring them to the dump, or to your nearest Radio Shack which will also accept used Ni-Cads at no fee.

Copies of two recycling periodicals are available at the Cornwall Library. *Waste News*

Weekly and Connecticut's own *Garbage Gazette* contain much useful information.

—Eliz. Tobin Terrall

Francis Cook's Dream Images

Francis J. Cook is exhibiting a variety of paintings, drawings, and mixed media now through April 13 at Cornwall Library. These works are often disturbing, sometimes quirkily funny, and always restless. Cook's images have a dream-like surreality. His imagination is a potpourri. He opens it up and out pops image after image—crowded swirls of figures, faces, visions, stories.

Near the front desk, you can't miss the extraordinary woodcut, *Procession*. And do see *The Wedding*, a fine, intricate drawing squirreled away in the back corner of the library.

—Alfred Bredenberg

Events & Announcements

National TV Turn-off Week is set for April 24-30. This effort is spearheaded by Cornwall's Henry LaBalme, director of TV-Free America, who hopes we'll reconsider the role TV plays in our lives. So take a walk, a nap, or a ride, but take a pass on TV for that week.

Friendly Volunteers Needed: In May 1979, a Committee on Aging was formed "to study the needs of and coordinate programs for the aging" in Cornwall. Now the selectmen are looking for people to serve on the committee. Are you interested in friendly visiting? Compiling a newsletter? Coordinating social programs? Other activities? Call 672-4959 or 672-2603 to volunteer.

Windows into Waldorf: You and your three- to six-year-old child can experience a typical day at Morning Song Nursery/Kindergarten in Sharon on Saturday, April 27, 9 A.M.—noon. Pre-registration required. Free. For further information, call Bianca LaPorta at 672-0089.

Eighth Grade Class Trip Fund-Raisers: Hire a Kid! If you need baby-sitting or odd jobs done this spring, call 672-3321 or 672-3471. You'll get two eighth graders for \$9 an hour for odd jobs, or one at \$4 for baby-sitting.

Also, keep the eighth grade in mind when you clean out your attic and garage. They will sell your "treasures" at the New Milford flea market in May. Call 672-6740 for pickup.

A Spaghetti Supper will be held on Friday, April 19, 6-8 P.M. at Mohawk Ski Lodge to benefit the CCS eighth grade class trip to Montreal. Cost: \$5 adults; \$3 children 6-12; children under 6 free; \$15 for families.



Letters to the Chronicle

CHILD CENTER SURVEY OF NEEDS

The Cornwall Child Center is conducting a telephone survey to ascertain if we meet the needs of the community, and, if not, how we can change in order to do so.

Members of the Board of Directors will be calling the approximately 100 Cornwall families who have children of eight or under to ask questions about the Center. I hope everyone called will answer the questions honestly and openly. We are anxious to hear all opinions and feelings, negative and positive. Names and identifying personal information will not be used in compiling the survey.

Our sincere thanks to all who reply to our questions.
—Sarah Paul, President
Child Center Board

SEASONS' GREETINGS

After the relatively static beauty and benevolence (if one discounts landslides, fires, earthquakes, floods) of Northern California, I relish the daily drama of the New England climate. One afternoon I'm cross-country skiing; the next I'm clearing musky alders from a hillside by the beaver swamp.

Watching for beavers is as close to a meditative act as I come. My fingers still smelling of alder juice, I lean my saw and clippers on a rock and sit in the sunny crook of the tri-trunk swamp maple. I look out over the water ragged with trees submerged by previous beaver families, and edged by trees girdled by current denizens. Beavers create a world as artists do, in the process recklessly demolishing other landscapes. Here they've introduced fish, otter, ducks, geese, herons. Quiet now. I almost fall asleep in the sun.

Not even the sudden thud (after crack, shudder, delayed crash of branches) of a windfall tree over on the east slope of Cream Hill kills the huge silence of my delight, nor does the random thunk of melting drop ice. I watch, is all. My not seeing the beavers is irrelevant.

Aroused, but still drowsy, I pick up clippers and saw, and head home over the old logging road, noticing a tender confluence of snow fleas in my footprints, and above, the barely perceptible swell of maple buds. Spring sap's rising. In the open now, I walk over the bare grasses of a field that soon, between barberries, will burst with peenting woodcock, freefall pairing hawks, and sweet wild strawberries.
—Ella Clark

Park and Rec Activities: The annual Easter Egg Hunt for preschool to fourth graders will be held Saturday, April 6, at 11 A.M. at CCS (not at the Town Hall). Roger the Jester will perform before the hunt.

Gymnastics with Jean Jacquier will start on Monday, April 22, and go for six weeks at the Goshen Center School. For more information call Martha Bruehl at 672-6373 or Jean Jacquier at 824-0325.



FORUM FOR CHANGE

What is the Cornwall Association? In 1986, a group of residents came together to discuss the socio-economic influences coming to bear on our town. The outcome of those first meetings is the Cornwall Association, a non-profit organization with the following mission statement:

"Recognizing the inevitability of change and concurrently the need to maintain the character of the town, we, the Cornwall Association will 1) provide a forum for and encourage the discussion of key issues and developments facing the town; 2) preserve Cornwall's historical and rural character consistent with the economic needs of the town and its people; 3) encourage planning for the future; and 4) foster a sense of community."

We have since helped to form the Cornwall Conservation Trust and the Cornwall Chronicle. We distributed information on the issues surrounding the CCS addition, Rumsey Hall I and II, and the recent Town Hall expansion. We successfully campaigned to help thwart regionalized town government. We created the Cornwall Yellow Pages and we assist other Cornwall groups where we can. Currently we are turning our attention to long-range planning issues.

Our board has 15 members. Its monthly meetings listed on the Chronicle calendar are open to the public. We believe that consensus and community are enhanced by a broad and lively forum where all issues that affect us are considered. We welcome your participation. Please join us.
—Will Calhoun, President

JUST A LITTER BIT OF LUCK

Unlike Larry Pool's and Paul Hotchkiss' wolf-sighting, my experience on Dibble Hill was to have a red fox with a beautiful fluffy tail cross the road ahead of me with her little kit in her mouth. I wanted so much to stop and wait to see if she would cross again to carry another, should it be a litter, but I drove on in consideration of her privacy! That was some years ago.
—Ruth Foote

Youth baseball (for children from kindergarten to age 13) starts in April. Pre-register with Martha Bruehl (672-2939) or Mark Pastre (672-0179).

Travelogue: Landscape Architect Bob Tomczack will show slides of three different English gardens (Drummond Castle, Sheffield Park, and Great Dixter) on Friday, April 19, at 7:30 P.M. in the CCS Library. Everyone is invited to this event.

Browning, Blake, and Byron Bagged: Because of poor attendance, the monthly Sunday evening poetry readings have been suspended until further notice.

A Bake Sale will take place on Saturday morning April 20, 8-11 A.M., at Baird's Store in Cornwall Bridge. Proceeds will help to fund the Cornwall Youth Group trip to New York City.

Kindergarten Registration for the coming school year will be held on April 2 and 3. Any child turning five on or before December 31, 1996, is eligible. Parents are to call the school office at 672-6617 to schedule a time for their child to visit the kindergarten room and meet the teacher. Parents must also bring their child's birth certificate and immunization record.

Tillie and Friends at Cornubia: An evening of dance, music, and drama will be presented at Cornubia Hall at 8 P.M. on April 20 to benefit Extras for Kids. The evening will feature cellist Marcia Murphy, choreographer Alice Sarkissian-Cadwell, and writer/actress Bettie Snyder.

Tillie Turner's Dream Diary, a monologue written and read by Ms. Snyder, is a fictionalized account based on the true-life experiences of a Yugoslavian woman who survived by her wits in Europe before, during, and after World War II.

In addition to providing background music and dance interpretation during the reading, Ms. Sarkissian-Cadwell and Ms. Murphy will perform solo numbers.

Tickets are \$10. For reservations, call 672-6785.

Elderly Health Screening: Health screening for Cornwall residents 60 years and over will take place at CCS on Tuesday, April 23. A wide range of tests are offered (hearing, vision, height/weight, blood pressure, urine, blood, stool, glaucoma, electrocardiogram, pelvic, breast, prostate) as well as health education. The suggested donation is \$20 (or \$25 with PAP test). Call Jill Gibbons at 672-2603 for an appointment or information.

Volunteers Wanted: NW CT Literacy Volunteers of America announces training workshops for volunteers who want to help adults improve their ability to read. No teaching experience is necessary. After training, each volunteer is matched with a student and they agree to work together for an hour twice a week for one year. Those interested should call Literacy Volunteers at 567-4820 for more information or to set up an interview.

La Casa Project Benefit: To fund house-building in Mexico, there will be a dinner and concert on Saturday, April 13, at 5:30 P.M. at the UCC Parish House. Entertainment following the meal will be provided by the Coltsfoot Chorus, Northwest Passage, Patricia Stanley Hochstetter, Ram Miles, and Tom Walker. \$12 per person donation. For information and reservations call Jim Whiteside at 672-6018.

Contest: Because the name Yutzler's is still owned by the previous proprietor, the Sawickis are seeking a new name for the store. Submit your entries to Box 291, West Cornwall, or call the Sawickis at 672-2975 before April 17.

Bid Ye Come to the Child Center's Annual Auction on Sunday, April 28, at Mohawk Ski Lodge. The silent auction begins at 1:30 P.M. and the live at 3:00 P.M.

Admission is \$5 and includes wine, soft drinks, and a groaning board of hors d'oeuvres. Child care is available by pre-registration. Call 672-6101.

Items on the block include four Disney World passes, a pontoon-boat rental on Twin Lakes, a truck-load of well-rotted manure brought to your garden, a Marc Simont portrait, a custom-designed tree- or play-house, and a freezer-ready "Babe."

A raffle will be held for a Shaker-style rocker from Ian Ingersoll's shop. Tickets (\$1) may be bought at the door, from Board members or parents, or by calling 672-0042.

Donations of objects of all shapes and sizes are solicited. If you have items to offer, please call 672-4815 or 672-6961.

Benefit Concert: A concert to benefit OWL's Kitchen and the Northwest Corner Chore Service will be held on Sunday, April 28 at 5 P.M. at the United Church of Christ. Pianists Anne Chamberlain and Kari Miller will play a duet program including music by Schubert, Mozart, Ravel, and Gershwin. The musicians both live in the Northwest Corner. General admission is \$12.



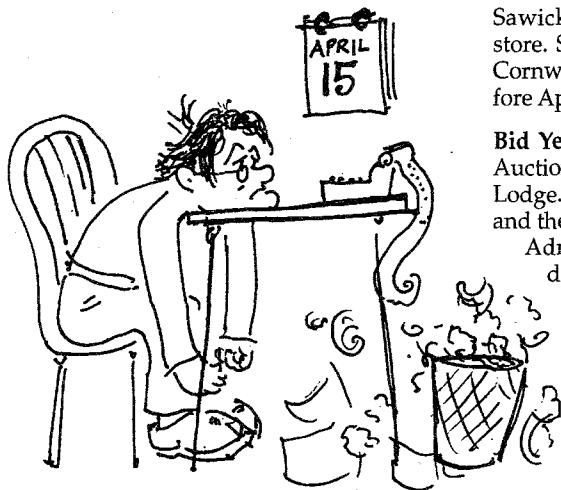
From Our Assessor: Homeowners who were 65 or older on December 31, 1995, or who are receiving Social Security disability payments may be eligible for property tax credit. The property must be the principal residence, and the total income including Social Security must be less than \$21,800 single and \$26,800 married. Applications must be filed in the Assessor's Office by May 15. Once on the program, homeowners must reapply every two years.

Persons currently receiving a veteran's exemption may be eligible for an added exemption if they meet the above income levels, regardless of age. Application period is February 1 to October 1. Forms are available from the Assessor's Office.

Chronicle Boardroom Changes: Barbara Klaw has been named publisher. She succeeds Spencer Klaw, who will continue as vice president and will take over her former job as copublisher-without-benefit-of-title. Cheryl Evans has joined the Board of Directors.

Correction: The correct *Chronicle* E-Mail address is cornwall@aol.com, not c@aol.com, as the March issue had it.

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CORNWALL CHRONICLE
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Cruellest Month

It's been a long, brutal winter, but you've survived, and now comes your reward: income taxes. So if you must skip a *Chronicle* contribution this month we'll understand. In fact, we'll go further: If you need any money, let us know and our treasurer will send you whatever we can spare. Just have your request to us by...April 1.

Yes, I want the Chronicle to continue.
Here is my tax-deductible contribution of: \$ _____
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Address _____
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 Mail the Chronicle to the out-of-town address above: \$10.

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